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BRIGHTLINGSEA
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of

The Medical Officer of Health
for 1945.



BRIGHTLINGSEA :
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1946.

679 82



Brightlingsea Urban District Council.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1945.

Chairman : Cr. P. R. HUGGETT, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : Cr. C. O. FENSOM.

Members of the Public Health Committee.

Chairman : Cr. C. O FENSOM.

Cr. A. J. ALDRIDGE

Cr. I. C. OSBORN

Cr. C. J. CARTER

Cr. H. G. POLLEY, J.P., C.C.

Cr. P. R. HUGGETT, J.P.

Cr. E. A. RUDDOCK

Cr. T. HANSON

Cr. H. WARREN

Public Health Officers of the Brightlingsea Urban District.

Medical Officer of Health.—J. Ramsbottom, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., who is also Assistant County Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health to the Tendring Rural District Council.

Sanitary Inspector (Whole-time Officer).—Mr. R. Boast, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.E., J.B., also acts as Surveyor, Meat and Food Inspector and Officer under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Waterworks Manager.—Mr. I. S. Priest (whole-time officer).

Town Hall,
Brightlingsea,
October, 1946.

**To the
Chairman and Members of the Brightlingsea Urban District Council.**

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1945 which is still considerably abbreviated.

Statistics show that in spite of abnormal conditions, the health of the District continues to be good.

The crude death rate is 19.76 and the birth rate 27.0. There were no maternal deaths during 1946.

The registrars figure shows 5 deaths, 3 of legitimate infants and 2 illegitimate. Of the former, two died in Institution.

The incidence of infectious diseases was again low. With the exception of 1 case of Cerebral Spinal Meningitis the 71 cases notified, consisted of Pneumonia, Whooping Cough and Measles. There were no cases of either Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever during the year.

I take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council for their assistance and consideration, and also the Sanitary Inspector and other Officers of the Council for their help and co-operation.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. RAMSBOTTOM,

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (exclusive of water) ..	...	...	...	2,873 acres
Population (1931 Census) ..	...	...	...	4,145
Population R.G. Estimate 1944	...	...	...	3,997
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	1,586
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£20,847
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£80

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

			Male	Female	Total
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	33	36	69
Illegitimate	...	...	2	1	3
Total Live Births			35	37	72
BIRTH RATE	...	...	...	...	18 01
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	..	...	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	27.0
Deaths	...	...	42	37	79
DEATH RATE (Crude)	...	...	...	...	19 76

DEATHS FROM DISEASES AND ACCIDENTS OF PREGNANCY AND CHILD BIRTH.

Cause	Deaths Nil	Death Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births Nil
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DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

Actual Number of Deaths (Legitimate)	...	...	3
Actual Number of Deaths (Illegitimate) R G.	...	...	2
			5
Infantile Death Rate ...	...	...	69.4
Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	43.5
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	666.7

There is a discreprancy between the number of infantile deaths in Brightlingsea as supplied by the R.G. and the figures compiled locally.

The local figure consists of 3 legitimate deaths, the cause and age of death being :—

Boy age 4 days - Icterus Neonatorum - Died in Institution

Girl age 4 days - Spina Refida " " "

Girl age 11 hours - Prematurity - Died at home

According to local records there were 3 Illegitimate births, the infants appear to be still alive.

If three legitimate deaths only were accepted, the above figures would read :—

<i>Infantile Death Rate</i>	41.7
<i>Death Rate of Legitimate Infants per 1,000</i>	43.5
<i>Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Births</i>	Nil

DEATHS FROM MEASLES, WHOOPING COUGH AND DIARRHOEA (under 1)

NIL

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, CANCER and INFLUENZA

Disease	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 Population
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	1	
(Non " ")	Nil } 1	25
Cancer ...	17	4 25
Influenza ...	Nil	Nil
Heart Disease ...	32	8 00

INFANTILE DIARRHOEA

There were no deaths of infants under two years of age during 1945 from this disease.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1945

Under 1 Year	1—2	2—5	5—15	15—25	25—35	35—45	45—55
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	55—65	65—75	75 & Over				
	11	19	44				

There have been 79 deaths in 1945 as compared with 74 in the previous year. The average age of death was 71 years.

Below are the figures for the last five years:—

Ages	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941
0—55	5	17	6	5	17
55—75	30	28	32	39	15
75 & Over	44	29	48	24	26
	79	74	86	68	58

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1945

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1	0	1
Cancer ...	11	6	17
Intracranial Vascular lesion ...	1	3	4
Heart disease ...	18	14	32
Other respiratory diseases ..	1	0	1
Bronchitis ...	1	1	2
Pneumonia ...	0	3	3
Other respiratory diseases ...	1	0	1
Appendicitis ...	1	0	1
Other digestive diseases ...	2	3	5
Nephritis ...	3	1	4
Premature Births ...	0	1	1
Con. Malformation etc. ...	1	1	2
Other Violent Deaths ...	0	1	1
All other causes ...	1	3	4
	42	37	79

Section B.

General Provision of Health Services.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological specimens are examined at the Emergency Pathological Service Laboratory, Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

Water specimens are examined at the Public Health Laboratories, Gidea Park, Essex.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES—No change from previous year, 1944.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES—No change from previous year 1944.

MIDWIVES AND NURSING HOMES - No change from previous year 1944.

Section C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Including the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY.

Doubt having been thrown upon the adequacy of the Brightlingsea Water supply and the high cost of the alternative source from the proposed new pipe line supplying the Eastern Parishes of the Tendring Rural District, the Council decided to sink an 18 inch bore in Lower Park Road. The work was completed in May 1945 and the 7 days test required by the Ministry of Health gave the following results : -

Output	240,000 gallons per day
Pumping level	59 feet from the Surface
Rest level	11½ feet from the Surface

Analytically the water proved to be of excellent quality but owing to the difficulty of obtaining a suitable submerged pump, the water was not passed into the mains during 1945.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There have been no extensions made to the Sewers during 1945.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Strictly speaking, there are no rivers and streams in the area.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

No conversions have been made during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council's Salvage Scheme is run in conjunction with Public Cleansing. No change has been made in the latter during the year.

SWIMMING POOL AND BATHS

The open air swimming pool was open to the public during 1944. The water is chlorinated.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Number of Infested Houses :—

Council Houses	..	...	...	Nil
Other Houses	...	...	...	Nil
Buildings other than Dwelling Houses	..			Nil
Disinfested	...	...	...	Nil

SCHOOLS

These are periodically visited. There are now two schools in Brightlingsea. The Senior School and the Junior National School.

*Town Hall,
Brightlingsea, Essex.*

To the Medical Officer of Health to the Brightlingsea U.D.C

Sir,

I have much pleasure in submitting my annual report on work carried out by me, in accordance with the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926, during the year 1945, as follows :—

SANITARY INSPECTIONS

Houses :—

(a) General inspections for repairs etc. ...	...	24
(b) Under Housing Consolidated Regulations ...	...	7
(c) Re-inspections ...	...	43

Overcrowding :—

(a) Houses measured for Form "B" ...	...	3
(b) Overcrowding re-inspections ...	...	5

Infectious Diseases ...	...	1
Disinfections ...	...	1
Water Supplies ...	...	9
Sanitary Conveniences ...	...	14
Sewers, Drains, Ditches & Cesspools ...	...	17
Cowsheds and Dairies ...	...	34
Slaughterhouses ...	...	Nil
Food and Drugs ...	...	59
Bakehouses ...	...	8
Shops ...	...	11
Factories and Workshops ...	...	21
Schools ...	...	4
Tents, Vans and sheds ...	...	3
Refuse Disposal ...	...	18
Verminous Premises ...	...	2
Rat Infestation ...	...	67
Complaints received and investigated ...	...	38

Total 389

Informal Notices served ...	...	47
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STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED

Housing Act ...	...	5
Public Health Act ...	...	Nil
Other Notices ...	...	Nil

DEFECTS REMEDIED

Number of Nuisances and Defects found ...	...	62
Number of Nuisances abated and Defects remedied ...	...	56
Number outstanding at end of year ...	...	6
Number of premises disinfected ...	...	2

DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE

Only three sources of major infestation existed during the year, and these were all dealt with successfully by the Council's Rat Catcher. The increased incidence of small infestations, each caused by two or three rats, has occurred, and has undoubtedly been due to the large number of poultry

kept in backyards and gardens within the district. Poultry food remaining on the ground after the chickens have been fed, is a constant attraction for rats, and routine disinfestation is necessary to deal with the problem.

To a certain extent, rats tend to migrate to the Council's Refuse Dump where it is comparatively easy to destroy them, and some exceptionally good kills have been made at the Dump during the year.

SHOPS ACT

In the course of routine inspections, one shop was found to have inadequate heating last winter, but owing to the prevailing shortage of fuel it was found difficult to take remedial action.

Two informal notices were served, requiring provision of washing facilities and hand towels respectively.

SCHOOLS

At one school it was found that defective firegrates were causing smoke to pervade the classrooms, and facilities for heating were also inadequate.

Informal action secured swift abatement of the nuisances in question.

Sanitary accommodation and washing facilities were, in all cases, very satisfactory.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was found to be necessary in this respect.

FACTORIES

At present all established factories and workshops comply with those sections of the Factories Act, 1937, which are administered by the Local Authority, and the standard of sanitary accommodation is good. In four cases it was necessary to request that sanitary conveniences be limewashed.

Inspections were also made to ensure that contractors carrying out temporary work in the district, complied with provisions of the above Act.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY

Two samples of milk from each producer and retailer, were submitted for examination during the year, and results were generally satisfactory.

It is, however, still difficult to secure thorough cleanliness of milking stools and overalls, and difficulty experienced by dairymen in obtaining supplies of soap, towels and udder cloths, has not been conducive to cleanliness.

Owing to the absence of any prescribed bacterial standard for Non-Designated Milk, it is hard to obtain from the dairyman sufficient respect for existing legislation dealing with cleanliness of milk, and it is difficult to decide what action can be taken in the case of a wholesaler who repeatedly produces "bad" samples.

On certain occasions, milk was tainted, apparently by over feeding cows with potatoes, because correction of the cows' diet immediately removed the taint.

Shortage of farm labour, and animal foodstuffs, have also added to the milk producers' difficulties.

Resulting from a small outbreak of tubercular glands among children in the district at one period, the Essex County Council, in response to a request, took samples of milk for pathological examination from all producers, but all results were, fortunately, negative.

Two dairy farms are without satisfactory water supply, and the owner has agreed to sink a new 4 inch borehole as soon as labour and materials are available.

PASTEURISED MILK. One dealer was licenced to retail pasteurised milk.
(b) MEAT

There is still no slaughtering carried out in the district, except by occasional licence, but routine inspections of butchers' shops and meat stores, have been continued.

Owing to the present shortage of meat it has been necessary to accept carcasses which were considerably below pre-war standards. Some of the mutton carcasses were "wet," with little tendency to "set "

One unusual case of rat infestation in the hollow insulating walls of a refrigerator, occurred, and disinfection was successfully carried out by means of Gas.

The following meat was condemned as unfit for human consumption, and voluntarily surrendered : -

4 lbs. Liver	...	...	...	(Distomatosis)
The undermentioned foods were also condemned :—				
68 lbs. Bacon	...	...	.	(Bone Taint)
11 Tins Sardines	...	...		
6 „ Beans	...	...		
18 „ Corned Beef	...	...		
2 „ Peas	...	...		
2 „ Chopped Ham	...	...		
18 „ Milk	...	...		
1 „ Herrings	...	...		
2 „ Salmon	...	...		
1 „ Luncheon Meat	...	...		
3 „ Pilchards	...	...		
7 „ Chopped Pork	...	...		

Blown or perforated tins
with decomposition.

(c) BAKEHOUSES

Routine inspections were made and general cleanliness was found to be satisfactory.

HOUSING

No new houses were erected during the year but plans have been approved for one pair of houses to be built by private enterprise

The Council has, in the course of preparation a scheme for 116 permanent houses, and layout drawings have been completed.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

R. BOAST, M.S.I.A., C.S.I.E.J.B.,

Cert. Meat & Foods.

Sanitary Inspector.

Section D.

Housing.

Three houses were erected by private builders in 1939, since that year no further building has been carried out.

Housing complaints were dealt with as they occurred.

Apart from War demolitions, no demolition orders were made during 1945

At the end of 1945 there were 55 applications for houses.

BRIGHTLINGSEA HOUSING SCHEME

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Section E.

Inspection of Food.

MILK SUPPLY

Cowsheds and Dairies have been regularly visited. There are on the Brightlingsea Register **7** Producers and **10** Retailers.

MEAT INSPECTION

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

BAKEHOUSES

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SHELLFISH (Mulluxan)

During 1945 **1,665,347** Oysters were marketed from Brightlingsea after cleansing. This compares with :—

1944	...	...	945 082
1943	...	...	940 658
1942	...	...	809,600
1941	...	...	2,055,714
1940	...	...	2,021,292
1939	...	...	3,401,062
1938	...	...	4,361,107

Section F.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

The undermentioned cases of infectious diseases were notified.

	Total Cases	Hospital	Deaths
Measles ...	4		
Whooping Cough	10		
Scarlet Fever ...	—		
Diphtheria ...	—		
Pneumonia ...	29	...	3
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis	1	1	
Jaundice ...	27		
	71		

1945 has again been very free from Infectious Diseases. It will be noticed that Jaundice and Pneumonia accounted for 56 of the 71 cases notified.

There were 3 Deaths from Pneumonia.

During 1945 the District was free from Diphtheria, this is the second year in succession.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

At the end of 1945 the child population of Brightlingsea under 15, totalled **748** of whom **270** were under **5** years of age and **478** over. **96** of the former and **391** of the latter were immunised, giving a percentage of **35.5** and **82.2** respectively.

The percentage for the two groups combined is **65.1** as compared with **62.5** the previous year.

There is an improvement of nearly **10** per cent in the number of children in the junior group who received inoculations. Last year this group only reached **26.1**.

TUBERCULOSIS

Below is given in tabular form the number of new cases and the deaths from tuberculosis during 1944.

	New Cases				Deaths				
	Respiratory		Non	Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—
5— 15	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—
15— 25	1	1		—	—	—	—	—	—
25— 35	2	—		1	—	—	—	—	—
35— 45	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—
45— 55	1	—		—	—	1	—	—	—
55— 65	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—
	4	1		1		1			

The following are the number of patients on the Register at the end of 1945.

Respiratory	Male	15	Non Respiratory	Male	7
„	Female	12	„	Female	7
	Total	41			

